

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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12-28-01



Applicant(s): Eliyahou Harari, Robert D. Norman and Sanjay Mehrotra
Assignee: SanDisk Corporation
Title: Flash EEPROM System
Serial No.: 09/657,482 Filing Date: September 8, 2000
Examiner: L. Hua Group Art Unit: 2131
Docket No.: M-10187-39C US

San Francisco, California
December 10, 2001

BOX AMENDMENTS
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2001, in the above-identified patent application. A Preliminary Amendment was filed by Express Mail on September 19, 2001, before the Office Action was received by the undersigned. Subsequent to the Preliminary Amendment and Office Action, two Information Disclosure Statements were filed by Express Mail, on October 2, 2001, and November 28, 2001.

The Preliminary Amendment cancelled the original application claims 56 – 62 that are the subject of the Office Action and substituted new claims 63 – 119. Examination of the new claims currently in the case is respectively requested. Claims 63 – 89 are believed to be patentable because of the specified combination of a cache memory and cooperative substitution of defective non-volatile memory cells. Claims 90 – 119 are believed to be patentable on account of overhead data being stored within the individual sectors in the specific claimed combinations.

The Office Action includes an objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for not illustrating specified limitations of the examined claims 56 – 62, and this is believed the basis for the objection to the drawing stated in the Office Action Summary. However, since these claims have now been cancelled, these drawing objections have become moot. It is

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